



Received 3-27-89 SB

Copies to 0162195 Sandra M. Keyin K. Dave B.

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Federal Bldg., U.S. Courthouse 301 South Park P.O. Box 10023 Helena, Montana 59626

IN REPLY REFER TO:

10111-East Helena

March 21, 1989

No V

Admin. Record: Yes No "ey Words/Co" Endangered Species, Wetlands

File # 4.07.07.00

Confidential, Yes \_\_\_

Admin. Record: Yes \_

Mr. Patrick Farmer Western Technology and Engineering Inc. P.O. Box 6045 3005 Airport Road Helena, Montana 59604

Dear Mr. Farmer:

We have received your letter dated March 14, 1989, in which you requested a list of federally-listed endangered species that may occur in the general vicinity of the ASARCO Incorporated East Helena Plant Superfund Site in East Helena, It is our understanding that your firm, in conjunction with ASARCO Incorporated and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is participating in the performance of a comprehensive site investigation and feasibility study to evaluate possible site-specific remedial contaminant cleanup alternatives for the East Helena Superfund Site.

The eventual decision by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on implementation of a remedial cleanup action identified in the feasibility study will constitute a Federal action and will require compliance with the Endangered Species Act. Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93205), as amended, requires that all Federal agencies in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall insure that any action authorized, funded or carried out by such agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species. The federally-listed endangered species that occur or may occur within the project area are the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) and the peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus). There are no known bald eagle or peregrine falcon nest territories in the immediate project area. If the remedial cleanup action proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will adversely affect these listed species, then formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required.

In your identification and inventory of wetland habitat resources associated with the ASARCO site, we recommend that every effort be made to identify any potential cleanup associated wetland impacts and that unavoidable impacts to wetlands be mitigated or offset during the remedial action planning and implementation process.

We appreciate your efforts to consider and conserve endangered species and their habitats, as well as other wildlife resources. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Don Palawski of my staff at (406) 449-5225.

Sincerely,

Kemper M. McMaster Acting State Supervisor

Montana State Office

Jengan N. Wh Masken

cc: ARD, USFWS, Denver, CO (FWE-60153) Attention: Tom Jackson Bob Stewart, DOI, OEPR, Denver, CO Scott Brown, Environmental Protection Agency, Helena, MT

DUP/dup

\* . . . . . .

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY
MAR 2 1 1989
MONTANA OFFICE